



FACETS

DECEMBER 2015

The Rockland County Branch of the American Association of University Women, Inc.

Rockland County Branch AAUW
P. O. Box 962 Monsey, NY 10952-0962
OUR WEB SITE: aauw.rocklandcountyny.org

Mission: AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

President: Suzanne Young Mercer
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Editor: Sylvia Miller (845) 358-1680
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DATES TO REMEMBER

- Tuesday, December 1** AAUW Board Meeting at Sandy Masiello's at 7:00 p.m. (location change)
94 Green Road, West Nyack, NY 10994
Please let Sandy know if you will or will not attend.
- Thursday, December 3** AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
The Monuments Men by Robert Edsel
- No meeting in December** AAUW Book Group New City Library at 4:00 p.m.



Wednesday, December 9 HOLIDAY BUFFET AND AUCTION 6:P.M.
At Rosemary Waltzer's Home
16 Sandusky Road, New City, NY 10956

Please e-mail ROSEMARY at rosescorf@gmail.com or phone 845-634-7928 by Friday, December 4
to let her know what food item you will bring.

Bring your 'gift' item for the auction and \$\$\$ for our LAF raffle too.

Directions to Rosemary's home and more details on page 3.

Tuesday, January 5, 2016 AAUW Board Meeting CONFERENCE CALL 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, January 7 AAUW 'Rockland Readers Book Club' at 1:00 p.m.
Barnes & Noble NANUET
Family Life by Akhil Sharma

Wednesday, January 15 "HARVEY" at Elmwood Playhouse fundraiser 8:00 p.m.
10 Park Street, Nyack, NY see details within

VISION STATEMENT: *AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

DIVERSITY STATEMENT: *In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.*

AAUW VALUE PROMISE: *By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Suzanne Young-Mercer

Greetings to Rockland County AAUW Members; I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Holiday and are now preparing for and looking forward to the upcoming Holiday season.

It is at this time of the year that we realize how fortunate we are to be members of a organization that share a common cause of advocating for women and girls through philanthropy, education, advocacy and research. This year we have reached many milestones of success in reaching some of our goals; for instance we saw advancements in equality in the work place with many states passing equal pay laws although New York did not get that far it did pass five bills that take on discrimination, sexual harassment and pregnancy accommodations in the workplace. We still have some way to go but this was clearly a good start. Read more in AAUW Action Network delivered to your email on November 25, 2015.

We started the 2015-2016 year off strong. September we had our open house meeting and celebrated with some of our new members. In October, we were at JCC for the candidate's forum and met the candidates. November we hosted one of our own, Betty Vallone, and learned about her latest book, *Heaven, Hell and Hoboken*, which focused on the migration of people of German descent to Hoboken. The annual STEM Engineering Conference November 18 was another outstanding success.

On December 9th we will have our holiday party and auction hosted by another one of our long time members, Rosemary Waltzer, at her home. We would love to share this time with many of our members, so come out, bring a dish and an item for the auction. Please let Rosemary know what dish you are going to bring by email at rosescorf@gmail.com or 634-7298. More details on this event are in this newsletter.

December is also the month that we do holiday gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble, NANUET. We have secured December 23 and 24, 2015, 9am – 11pm and 9am – 6pm respectively. We still have plenty of slots available so please let me know smvmaauw@gmail.com or 406-5156 and come out to spend an hour or two or more to have some fun, companionship and something worthwhile for the organization for the holidays.

I want to wish each and every one of you the best this holiday season and a bright, healthy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to our continued collaboration in the New Year supporting and advocating for women and girls.

Happy Holidays

Suzanne Young-Mercer, President

BRANCH NOTES.

NEED AN IDEA FOR A HOLIDAY GIFT? How about a ticket for our "HARVEY" fundraiser at Elmwood Playhouse in Nyack on January 16? Only \$35/ticket for a fun-filled evening. A totally unique gift. What a good idea! Contact Sandy Blasy at yoga54ny@gmail.com for tickets. Details on page 4.

STEM Engineering Conference by Amy MacDermott

The STEM Program of our AAUW Rockland Chapter organized its sixth annual Engineering Conference for Rockland County high school students on November 18, 2015. This conference was hosted in conjunction with the New York State Society of Professional Engineers, Rockland Chapter. Our AAUW branch president, Suzanne Young-Mercer, started off the conference with an introduction to AAUW and our STEM initiative. Two guest engineers followed up with talks for the students. One was an overview of engineering fields and activities, given by Megan Busch from Brooker Engineering, and the other talk, given by Dr. Gloria Books Reinish, Professor of Bioengineering from Fairleigh Dickinson University, focused on electrical engineering. After a buffet luncheon, a panel of 6 engineers took a wide range of probing questions from the attendees. The conference was well attended by over 50 students as well as some parents, guidance counselors and teachers. This program was organized by the engineering subcommittee of the STEM committee including Renee Brilliant, Chair; Bach-Tuyet Pham, Peter Arvanites, Marie Horton and Amy MacDermott.

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FUND (EOF)

The **AUCTION at our Holiday Buffet** is to benefit our \$25/member contribution requested by National. Please look around for anything that would make a nice holiday gift for someone else – a new item or almost new, something that is just not your type and bring it to the auction. It makes for a fun evening.

**DECEMBER AAUW HOLIDAY POT LUCK DINNER AND AUCTION**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 6:00 p.m.

At the home of Rosemary Waltzer, 16 Sandusky Road, New City, NY

- This is our very special winter event!
- Members provide the food (see details below).
- Members bring new items or almost new (appropriate as holiday gifts) to be auctioned off after dinner. One item per member will be sufficient.
- See our amazing LAF raffle basket (see details below).
- It is a wonderful time to meet new members and get reacquainted with others.

Please contact **ROSEMARY WALTZER at rosescorf@gmail.com (preferred) or phone (845) 634-7928 by Friday, December 4** to let her know what food item you will bring. Rosemary says we especially need main dishes, salads, sides, and a few more appetizers. Please bring your dish *fully assembled*. Oven is available to keep your hot dish warm. Your contribution should serve 8 portions. As a courtesy to our wonderful hostess, please let her know your plans by Friday, December 4 so arrangements can be made, and there is a call list in case of unexpected cancellation.

The holiday auction raises funds for the branch contribution to AAUW's **Education Opportunities Fund**. Each member brings a gift (a regift), new (or almost). Auction items can be paid for by check to the *AAUW Funds* which is a 501 (c) (3) fund. (tax deductible) Otherwise, just bring \$\$\$ for the raffle and auction. This year our auctioneer will be Suzanne Young-Mercer. The auction is a riot and the party is fun, fun, fun.

We will also have our **LAF basket raffle** – this year's theme is "Holiday *Spirits*." Suggested items to be included are: wine, eggnog mix, crackers, cookies, candies, nuts, dried fruits, candles, cocktail napkins, anything festive. Please take your contributions to Pam Guevara at Red Hill Nursery (previously Van Houten Gardens) 241 South Little Tor Road, New City **before December 4**.

DIRECTIONS to Rosemary's: Take Route 304 north out of New City beyond Squadron Boulevard. Turn left on Ridge Road, Route 23 NORTH (second stop light). Turn left on Sandusky Road, the first street on the left on Ridge. Rosemary's house is #16 on the right past the little pine tree park.

**HOLIDAY WRAPPING AT BARNES & NOBLE, NANUET**

Our holiday fund raiser is here again. AAUW **needs volunteers** to wrap presents at Barnes & Noble, NANUET for the Holiday Season. The dates are Wednesday, December 23 and Thursday, December 24. Select dates for your time to volunteer; just a couple hours would be a great help.

Times are: <u>Dec. 23</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>
9 – 11 am	9 – 11 am
11 – 1 pm	11 – 1 pm
1 – 3 pm	1 – 3 pm
3 – 5 pm	3 – 5 pm
5 – 7 pm	5 – 6 pm
7 – 9/10 pm	

Come out and enjoy your fellow AAUW members, meet the shoppers. Just have fun while you are helping AAUW continue its mission.

E-mail Suzanne Young-Mercer at smym5225@aol.com
or call (845) 425-8559



FUNDRAISER AT ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE, 10 Park St. Nyack, NY

On **Saturday, January 16, 2016 at 8:00 p.m.** our branch will partner with the Spring Valley Rotary to present the comedy **HARVEY**, a delightful classic comedy about a kind hearted, middle-aged eccentric named Elwood P. Dowd whose best friend is an invisible Pooka, a benign but mischievous mythological creature resembling a six-foot tall rabbit. Genuine characters and uncomplicated values of love and friendship keep this play's appeal intact almost 70 years after it was written.

AAUW has 25 tickets to sell at \$35 per ticket. This is one of our SPECIAL fundraisers of the year so it is very important that we sell all of our tickets.

There are 2 ways that you can support this effort:

1. Buy or sell tickets - if **each member** buys at least one ticket for themselves or someone else, we will achieve our goal.
2. Make a donation if you cannot buy or sell any tickets.

For ticket sales, please contact: Sandy Blasy at (845) 398-2054 or yoga54ny@gmail.com

Tickets will be mailed to you upon receipt of your check made out to *AAUW Rockland Branch* and mailed to P.O. Box 962, Monsey, NY 10952-0962 up to December 30th. Please indicate "Elmwood" in the memo line. After that date, your tickets will be made available at the door the night of the performance.

Tickets can be purchased at our Holiday Buffet & Auction on December 9th. Just bring your money/checks and save the 49 cent postage. THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!!!

LEGAL ADVOCACY FUND (LAF)

The U. S. Supreme Court's new term just began, and the cases it hears this year have the potential to significantly affect the rights of women and girls. More than 150 members from across the country tuned in on October 15th to hear our analysis of the court's most important upcoming cases. If you couldn't make the call, **listen** to a recording and take a look at **our preview blog**. And stay tuned for information on our next Supreme Court wrap-up call in July 2016.

TAKE A LOOK AT OUR UPDATED WEBSITE!!! [aauw rockland county ny](http://aauw.rocklandcounty.ny)

What do you think of our website? Now that we are up-to-date and adding more information regularly, we would like to receive comments from our members. What else should be included? Any and all comments gratefully received as well as your contributions. Please send comments, articles, pictures, etc. to Sylvia Miller at aauwsam@optonline.net and we will gladly include them. Thank you.

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT: Time for Nominations

Each year at our Annual Dinner in May, our branch recognizes *a Rockland County woman who has affected a positive change in our community*. Branch members are asked to submit their nominations for this award in the form of a one-page biography and reason for recommendation (approximately 100 words). Send to Sylvia Miller, 98 Foxwood Road, West Nyack, NY 10994 or aauwsam@optonline.net by **December 31, 2015**. Thank you.

HAPPENINGS

Sunday, Nov. 8 – **Sierra Club Lower Hudson** and the **Rockland Water Coalition** present **The Climate Change Solutions Tour!** at Temple Israel Center, 280 Old Mamaroneck Road, White Plains, 3:00 p.m. Zephyr Teachout (Breakaway 2014 Candidate for NY Governor) will speak on solutions to climate change, the most urgent environmental problem of our time!

Wednesday, Dec. 2 – **Rivertown Film** presents **Phoenix** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 8 – **Riverkeeper** presents **The Hudson: A River at Risk** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 7:00 p.m. This film by Jon Bowermaster will be followed by a discussion on the state of the Hudson.

Wednesday, Dec. 9 – **Rockland Community College** presents **Tim Wise**, antiracist, essayist, author and educator. RCC Technology Center 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Registration required. Call (845) 364-3238 to reserve your seat.

Thursday, Dec. 10 – **Clarkstown VOTE** regarding the School District's **Bond for Critical Repairs**.

Thursday, Dec. 10 – **Nanuet-West Nyack Rotary Tree Lighting at the West Nyack Village Green Park** 7:00 p.m. Join in with song and refreshments.

Wednesday, Dec. 16 – **Rivertown Film** presents **Steve Jobs: The Man in the Machine** at the Nyack Center, Nyack, NY, 8:15 p.m. Please support the Nyack Center toy drive by bringing an unwrapped toy to this screening.

Sunday, Nov. 22 – **VCS** presents **Transgender Day of Remembrance – opening reception**, 12:30 p.m., Nyack Library, 59 S. Broadway, Nyack, NY and film **Growing Up Trans**, a PBS documentary, at 2:30 p.m. at the Library.

RTC (Rockland Teachers' Center) EVENTS Open to everyone! View all programs online at www.rockteach.org.

E-mail address for Bilha Berkowitz is bberkowitz@rockteach.org. Additional trips and gallery tours are online.

Reminder: For a special discount on Air Brook Limousine Service, call 1 800-800-1990 and mention code CC6059. 5% discount on luxury sedan and van service PLUS a 5% donation in your name to the Rockland Teachers' Center.

PEOPLE TO PEOPLE FOOD PANTRY In December more than 1,000 low-income Rockland parents will look to PTP's **Project Joy** program to help them provide holiday gifts for their kids. Visit their office to adopt a family's wish list for the holidays. Please continue providing canned goods, juices, cereal, soups, peanut butter & jelly, turkeys, etc. to PTP as often as you can. For more information, go to their web site: www.peopletopeopleinc.org
Hours are Monday through Friday 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m. at 121 West Nyack Road, Nanuet, NY, 10954.

Questions? Call (845) 623-4900

THANK YOU

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December 1 – BOARD meeting at Sandy Masiello's 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 3 - Rockland Readers Book Club, Barnes & Noble, Nanuet 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 9 – AAUW HOLIDAY BUFFET AND AUCTION, 6:00 p.m. at Rosemary Waltzer's

Wednesday, December 23 – AAUW WRAP at Barnes & Noble, NANUET. Volunteers Needed.

Thursday, December 24 – AAUW WRAP at Barnes & Noble, NANUET. Volunteers Needed.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Tuesday, January 5 – BOARD Meeting Conference Call 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 16 – AAUW Fundraiser at Elmwood Playhouse for the comedy "HARVEY."

Friday, January 22 – CTAUN Meeting at the United Nations – "Stewardship for a Sustainable World: Education in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)"

Saturday, January 23 or Sunday, January 24 - AAUW Branch Meeting, afternoon.

Saturday, February 27 – Diversity Brunch at St. Charles A.M.E. Zion Church, Sparkill, NY 10:30 a.m.